

# *Assault Battery demonstrates skills*

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*Btry. A, 4-5 ADA*

Soldiers of Battery A, 4th Battalion, 5th Air Defense Artillery Regiment deployed to Fort Hood training areas recently to work on their skills in defending the air from enemy attack.

Training focused on the air defense of a static asset, convoy operations, and traffic control point operations and was conducted in preparation for the upcoming Operation Renegade Strike.

Operation Renegade Strike is a battalion-driven, 72-hour, high-intensity, platoon emergency deployment readiness exercise and exercise evaluation.

The exercise is designed to test all facets of air defense platoon operations, from executing a short-notice deployment sequence to protecting assets in the area from ground and air attack. The evaluations are conducted by personnel from the battalion S3 shop. To receive a go, the battery must achieve an 80 percent "go" rate for all tasks.

The field training exercise was also an opportunity for the battery to set up its Tactical Operations Center and train the crew to run it. The battery TOC is an essential element in the unit's battlefield operations. If the commander

does not have the ability to command, control and battle track properly, he can't use his assets to full effect.

This was the first time since the battery's deployment to Iraq that the battery TOC was fully operational.

Soldiers trained on conducting sustainment and maintenance operations in addition to the traffic control point, convoy operations and air defense operations being conducted. By combining all these tasks into a single field exercise, the Soldiers were able to get an accurate assessment of the unit's ability to conduct sustained combat operations.

"This training has dramatically increased the combat readiness of my platoon," 1st Lt. Brendan Messenger remarked, "as well as our ability to conduct sustained combat operations."

1st Lt. Robert Stoup, the 2nd platoon leader, stated that, "This training would ensure that Alpha Battery would be ready to deploy whenever called to conduct sustained operations."

This training exercise allowed the battery to conduct training not normally available, and offered an opportunity to get out of the motor pool and practice doing what air defenders do best. More than 15 vehicles conducted operations without any stoppages due to maintenance issues.